

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32 and 34-37 and 39 were pending. Claims 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 18, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 34-36, and 39 have been amended, claims 40-45 have been added by this amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the Official Action, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 23, 29, 32, 34-38 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayward et al. in view of Vallabh; and claim 26 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hayward et al. in view of Vallabh and further in view of Benjamin.

In response, independent claim 3 claim has been extensively amended to recite that, when the remaining amount is not greater than a first threshold which itself is greater than zero, the controller displays a warning to replace the consumable and that, when the remaining amount is not greater than a second threshold which is itself greater than the first threshold, the controller displays on the display purchase information for purchasing the consumable.

In addition to the amendment discussed in the foregoing, most (but not all) of the claims have been amended to more clearly separate the various components of applicants' invention. However, none of those amendments is substantive in nature.

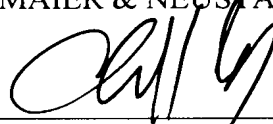
Also, claim 39 has been amended to correct an obvious error in dependency.

Application No. 09/925,737
Reply to Office Action of March 5, 2008

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

Charles L. Gholz
Registration No. 26,395